

2 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, PLANS AND POLICY STAFF

SUBJECT: Monthly Report

REFERENCE: Your memorandum, 29 January 1948

1. Your attention is invited to the fact that the Reference, received on Friday, 30 January, calls for a response to a series of the most fundamental and far reaching questions by noon on Tuesday, 3 February. That the Planning Staff should interest itself in obtaining the views of the working elements of O.R.E. on these subjects is a needed innovation and altogether laudable. That the Planning Staff should suppose that a thorough examination of these subjects could be prepared in the time allowed or disposed of in a routine monthly report is utterly unrealistic. It betrays a lack of comprehension of both the magnitude of the problems presented and the fact that the addressees have other work to do in discharge of their primary function, the production of intelligence. It happens, for instance, that the Global Survey Group will be heavily engaged on Monday and Tuesday in the satisfaction of urgent requirements of the H.S.C. Staff Group. The present response, such as it is, must therefore be prepared in the course of the weekend, an unwarranted imposition in view of the long-standing and long-term character of the problems presented.

2. Brief response is made with reference to the particular problems presented in the Reference, as follows:

a. We have discovered, but only on inquiry, that this question calls for recommended changes in an "Intelligence Plan" which does not as yet exist. The question is unanswerable.

b. Does the Planning Staff want a report duplicating that furnished monthly to the Estimates Group? Is it interested in normal intelligence production, or only in the abnormal? The question is obscure and confusing in its present form, and therefore unanswerable.

c. Intelligence production in O.R.E. and the I.A.C. agencies is quite inadequate to afford a proper coverage

of the global aspects of the situation or to support the efforts of the Global Survey Group to perform its stated mission. This opinion has been reported to the Assistant Director from time to time, both orally and in writing. A routine monthly report is not the proper vehicle for presenting specifications in support of this view, analysis of the problem, and recommendations for its solution. A substantive intelligence plan, such as [REDACTED] 25X1A proposes, would be an approach to the solution of one aspect of the problem, but is not something that can be concocted in a day or two.

d, e, and f. The present organization and functioning of O.R.E. and also of C.I.A. are fundamentally unsound in vital respects. These matters have been discussed thoroughly with the Assistant Director and to a considerable extent with various members of the Planning Staff. The views and recommendations of this Group are well known. Their written presentation cannot be prepared over the weekend, nor can the necessary diversion of effort from urgent tasks of intelligence production be justified without greater prospect of remedial action than is now apparent. In any case, a routine monthly report is not the proper vehicle for the consideration of such fundamental problems, which require detailed and thorough analysis and earnest consideration.

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[REDACTED]

Chief, Global Survey Group

cc: Asst. Dir., R&E (2)
Plans and Policy Staff
File (2)